

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DOHA 00369 200838Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPIC-03 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03
H-01 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /076 W
-----059288 200943Z /15
R 200635Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3484

S E C R E T DOHA 0369
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, QA
SUBJECT: HOLCAR OIL CONCESSION IN QATAR

REFS: (A) DOHA 320 (B) DOHA 327 (C) 2 FAM 050 (D) 7 FAM 431
THROUGH 436 (E) 10 FAM 300 AND FOLLOWING

1. SUMMARY: HOLCAR PARTNER ROY J. CARVER TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR FROM MIAMI MARCH 13 TO REQUEST (A) THAT AMBASSADOR INTERVENE WITH AMIR KHALIFA TO OBTAIN AN EXTENSION OF THE HOLCAR CONCESSION AND (B) THAT EMBASSY INTERVENE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR TO COMPENSATE HOLCAR FOR A CLAIMED \$400,000 WORTH OF PIPES, DRILLING BITS AND OTHER MATERIEL REMAINING ON THE HOLCAR COMPOUND IN QATAR1 AMBASSADOR SAID ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE WITH THE AMIR WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR REASONS DISCUSSED WITH CARVER AND HIS PARTNER SENATOR EUGENE HOLLEY WHEN THEY WERE IN QATAR RECENTLY. AMBASSADOR TOLD CARVER THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF THE \$400,000 CLAIM. HOWEVER, EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT ANY INTERVENTION WITH THE GOQ WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. AND IN VIEW OF THE ALLEGED UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES BY WHICH THE ORIGINAL HOLCAR CONCESSION WAS OBTAINED, WE DOUBT THAT EMBASSY SHOULD INVOLVE ITSELF FURTHER IN THIS AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. I REMINDED ROY CARVER OVER THE TELEPHONE THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED AND DECIDED AGAINST TRYING TO APPROACH THE AMIR ON THE HOLCAR CONCESSION WHEN HE AND SENATOR HOLLEY WERE IN DOHA RECENTLY.

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THE MAIN REASON WAS THAT THE AMIR APPEARED ALREADY TO HAVE MADE UP HIS MIND NOT TO EXTEND THE HOLCAR CONCESSION AND THAT FINANCE AND PETROLEUM MINISTER SHEIKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA WOULD REGARD SUCH AN EFFORT AS AN ATTEMPT TO BYPASS HIM. THUS, THE ATTEMPT WOULD NOT SUCCEED AND WE WOULD HAVE INCURRED THE RESENTMENT OF A KEY MINISTER WHOSE CONTINUING GOOD WILL WAS VALUABLE TO U.S. INTERESTS IN QATAR.

3. COMMENT: WHILE I TOLD MR. CARVER THAT I WOULD BE WILLING TO LOOK INTO THE \$400,000 WHICH HE CLAIMS THE RESIDUAL HOLCAR EQUIPMENT IN QATAR IS WORTH, ON FURTHER REFLECTION I HAVE DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION IN THE MATTER UNLESS EXPLICITLY INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE DEPARTMENT. IN SO FAR AS WE KNOW, HOLCAR HAS NOT DOCUMENTED ITS CLAIM EITHER AS TO THE EXACT RESIDUAL PROPERTIES FOR WHICH THEY SEEK COMPENSATION OR WITH RESPECT TO COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER DOCUMENTS IN PURSUING THEIR CLAIM. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE ALLEGED MANNER IN WHICH THE ORIGINAL CONCESSION WAS SECURED, AN ATTEMPT BY THE EMBASSY TO COLLECT \$400,000 FOR HOLCAR MIGHT WELL THROW US IN A BAD LIGHT WITH THE GOQ.

4. COMMENT CONTINUED: BEFORE SENATOR HOLLEY LEFT DOHA, HE TOLD ME THAT IN HIS OPINION THE HOLCAR CASE WAS IRRETRIEVABLY LOST. AT THAT TIME, HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT RECOVERING \$400,000 FOR THE HOLCAR EQUIPMENT REMAINING HERE. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TALK WITH SENATOR HOLLEY BY TELEPHONE TO ASCERTAIN IF MR. CARVER'S TELEPHONIC REQUESTS TO ME ARE SUPPORTED BY HOLLEY. ALSO, THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT CONVEY TO HOLLEY AND CARVER THE VIEW THAT THE EMBASSY IS IN A VERY POOR POSITION IN TRYING TO PURSUE A COMMERCIAL CLAIM IN THE ABSENCE OF DOCUMENTATION THAT THE CLAIMANT HAS ALREADY BEEN SEEKING REDRESS. ANOTHER SERIOUS FLAW IN TRYING TO HELP HOLCAR IS THAT THEY HAVE NO REPRESENTATIVE HERE ON THE SPOT WITH WHOM WE CAN TALK. THAT WAS THE SAME
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SITUATION EXISTING ALSO THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS OF LAST YEAR. THIS APPARENT CLOSING OF THE HOLCAR OFFICE WELL BEFORE THE END OF THE CONCESSIONARY PERIOD APPEARS TO BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN ALL OF HOLCAR'S DIFFICULTIES WITH THE GOQ. END COMMENT.

5. REQUEST FOR ACTION: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT.
KILLGORE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, DEMARCHE, NEGOTIATIONS, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DOHA00369
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780122-0339
Format: TEL
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780348/aaaaboqx.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c152f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DOHA 320, 78 DOHA 327
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3272007
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOLCAR OIL CONCESSION IN QATAR
TAGS: ENRG, QA, HOLCAR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c152f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014